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## BOOK REVIEWS



IN CHARGE OF

**M. E. CAMERON**

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GREAT VALUE

AN announcement intended to be made at the meeting of the American Nurses' Association, but omitted through pressure of time, was that nurses interested in teaching school children problems of hygiene may find valuable lists of books and articles bearing on the subject in a little pamphlet entitled "A Bibliography on Educational Hygiene and Physical Education," by Thomas Dennison Wood and Mary Reesor. Some of the subjects listed are Eugenics, Fatigue and Hygiene of the Nervous System, Health Instruction, Medical and Health Examination and Instruction, the Nurse in Education, Open-Air Schools, Sanitation of Schools, Sanitation of Rural Schools, School Hygiene. This pamphlet may be obtained by sending twenty cents to Teachers' College Publishing Office, New York City.

**REMINISCENCES OF LINDA RICHARDS, AMERICA'S FIRST TRAINED NURSE.** Whitcomb and Barrows. Price, \$1.00.

As an autobiography Miss Richards' book is distinctly disappointing. Never perhaps did one ever write of one's own life and give as little heed to one's self. Augustine Birrell says that autobiography shows "a noticeable desire to make humanity, or the reading public, our residuary legatee; to endow it with our experiences, to enrich it with our egotisms, to strip ourselves bare in the market-place, if not for the edification at all events for the amusement of man." But Miss Richards entirely disregards the formula of the great Mr. Birrell, and while she has not quite eliminated the heroine from her book her friends certainly have cause to claim that she has not done her justice.

The achievement of Linda Richards is most remarkable. For thirty-nine years she has been active in the field of her vocation,—the organization of nurse training schools. Well indeed has she been called "the pioneer path breaker." Once the way was open, and machinery running well in any venture, and it seemed to pall upon her—she sought for new ground and started on new material only to forsake it when it began

to conform to custom and shape toward completion. She never cared to stay by her own work and repeatedly left it, once it had ceased to be constructive work, as though she enjoyed building houses for others to occupy. Thirty-nine years of work and that in a profession where ten has been named as the limit of usefulness! Simplicity and directness seem to the reader the most striking features in a character dominated by ceaseless energy. Whatever she aimed for, she reached; we are not told how, but the little Wisconsin girl is not long in making her way to Boston and New York and getting in the hospitals of those cities the training and experience to fit her for the work of organizing the nursing in the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. This in itself is a stupendous piece of work and one entirely original. Five years after her first appearance as a pupil nurse in Boston finds her a visitor under the aegis of Miss Nightingale at St. Thomas Hospital, London; King's College Hospital, London; and the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Back to America and undertaking the organization of the Boston City Hospital Nurse Training School where after a year of strenuous life, came an enforced rest of two years, after which she resumed work in the Boston City Hospital for four years, when again comes the call to arise and go forth, this time to Japan, where five years were spent in a combination of missionary life and the more exciting occupation of organizing and carrying on the first Training for Nurses in Japan.

Returning to America in March, 1891, she took the position of head worker in the "Philadelphia Visiting Nurses' Society," which position was later relinquished because of insufficient physical strength. Following this Miss Richards continued in training school work for twenty years, part of the time being spent in work in the hospitals for the insane, where she worked out the problem of the limited character of the work by affiliation with good general hospitals.

As was said earlier in these pages Miss Richards has been far too modest and self-effacing, and even the kindly introductory pages added to the book by her friends fail to do her justice, being limited to the scant space that is allowed the ordinary introduction.

**THE OPEN-AIR OR SANATORIUM TREATMENT OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.** By F. Rufenacht Walters, M.D., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., Physician to Crooksbury Sanatorium; Formerly Physician to Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest; Author of "Sanatoria for Consumptives." Price, \$2.25. William Wood and Co., New York.

No stronger evidence of the changing times could be presented than